

## **UNAPPROVED**

**There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.**

**Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Erika Sanzi, Jeff Mutter, John Gibbons, Dan Pedro, Earl Wood. Linda Teel was absent.**

**Administration Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration, Dr. Susan Carney, Assistant Superintendent, Alex Prignano, Business Manager.**

### **Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting**

**Chairman Mutter convened the meeting at 7:39 p.m.**

### **Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

**Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 6-0.**

### **Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting 3/14/11, Town Meeting 3/21/11, Regular Meeting 3/24/11, Budget Workshop/Public Hearing 3/31/11, Executive Session 3/24/11 - Mr. Wood made a motion to approve**

**these minutes, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi and Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.**

**Agenda Item #5: Student Government Report**

**Pennies for Patients collected \$2,700 during the month of March. Blood drive on 4/5 yielded 89 donations. Spring vacation 4/18 – 4/22 and the senior trip to Disney will take place 4/28 – 5/1 – about 92 students will attend.**

**Agenda Item #6: Chairperson's Report**

**No report at this time.**

**Agenda Item #7: Student Achievement**

**A. Recognition of Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, B. Student Recognition, C. Superintendent's Report on Teaching and Learning –Chase Boni, a NCMS student, was recognized tonight for winning the Geographic Bee 2011 – he will now move on to the National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C. – Good Luck Chase – everyone is very proud of you!! At this point, Dr. Morelle stated that each year MMS takes part in a school wide initiated reading challenge from September to March – this year they (students, faculty, parents, etc.) read 253,616 pages – so Dr. Anderson (principal) told them that for every 10,000 pages they read, he would break a piece of concrete, so on 3/25 MMS held a pep rally and Dr. Anderson spoke about setting and achieving goals and then broke 25 pieces of concrete! Next year the goal is to read 300,000 pages!! A certificate of recognition was given to Dr. Anderson for himself and his students – Dr. Morelle then**

asked Dr. Anderson to say a few words and he simply commented that MMS is a great school, but after speaking with one of his students one day, decided to give all of his students an environment that they would like, he wanted to build a community within the school – make it a fantastic place – and he is doing this and is giving the students at MMS a great place to go to school! It was then noted that a Citation would be sent over to MMS within the next few days for this tremendous accomplishment! Also, Rep. McLaughlin awarded Chase Boni with a certificate from the State of Rhode Island, for his accomplishments in the Geographic Bee – again everyone is very proud of Chase and wishes him well as he continues on to Washington, D.C. for the National Geographic Bee!

#### **Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public**

Lynn S. – commented about the Blackstone Valley Prep Proposal – she is very concerned about the possibility of this happening, she mentioned MaColl Field and how they serve 69 students and if this program has to leave because of the BVP she feels that once it is gone, it will be gone for good, also common areas will not be available anymore, PTO fundraising for the school will be interrupted, parking issues, a stage that cannot be used now because it is being used as half for a classroom and half for storage, some offices and classrooms that have not been painted in 14 years – what will this proposal do to painting and renovating that is currently needed to be done, and safety issues – 3 to 12 year olds using common areas.

Sandy P. – she is in favor of BVP proposal because she does not

want another tax increase – she believes that some people will have to move out of town because they cannot afford to live here. She is asking the SC to review everything before making a decision and also thinks that uniforms are great.

Cheryl B. – she is concerned about the reduction in Guidance Counselors – thinks that they are very important to the students and make great improvements in the schools. She also wanted to thank Mrs. Sanzi and Mrs. Beaulieu for reading at Cumberland Hill during reading week-she presented them each with a little gift.

Rep. McLaughlin – asked the SC to take everything into consideration when reviewing the BVP proposal – wants to be kept up to date with everything.

Bill – concerned about the interim principals at Garvin School –Dr. Morelle explained that at the beginning of the year the position was posted, they received a few applications but did not feel comfortable moving forward because there was not a clear direction because of the possibility of reorganization. The determination was then made to hire an interim principal – it would have been very awkward to hire someone for a possible one-year position. So two candidates came forward for the interim position – however it was not known at the time that the candidates were not going to be able to do a full year, so Mr. Stepka was asked to come back – he will remain at Garvin until the end of the school year. When Mr. Stepka is unable to come in, the interim principals – Ms. Colanino or Mr. Renzulli will take his place for that date. The position has been posted for July 1, 2011.

Kathleen L. – very concerned about the disruption that the BVP would

cause at BFN. She said the preschool was tough, and now another possible disruption. She would like the SC to look at other venues. She also does not think it is a good idea to have the eight grade students going to the high school – she said that socially they are not ready for it. She would like the SC to look at the educational soundness for the students.

#### **Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees**

Mr. Wood stated that the Fiscal Management Sub Committee met prior to this meeting and made a motion to pay invoices totaling \$956,878.49 – 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Mr. Wood also noted that it will cost \$7,253 for the full committee to join the R.I. SC Association and he wanted everyone to know that this amount is not budgeted for next year, so he asked Mr. Mutter to consider talking about this at a future meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #10: New Business**

A. Home School Instruction Requests for the 2010-2011 School Year – Dr. Carney stated that she had one request, has reviewed it and recommends that the SC approves it – Mrs. Beaulieu made the motion to approve the request, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

B. Discussion and/or Vote on 2011-2012 School Calendar – Version 1 or Version 2 – Mr. Wood made a motion to put this on the agenda for the next meeting (4/28), 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0. The calendar must be approved at that meeting because it needs to go to R.I.D.E. on May 1st.

## **Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations**

**Dr. Morelle had the following personnel recommendations:**

### **Appointment**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Jo-Ann DeOrsey, Accounting Specialist, for Cumberland Public Schools, effective 4/15/2011. (FTE: 0.8; Step n/a; Lane: n/a; Co-pay: 10.0%; budgeted)**

**Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve this appointment, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 6-0.**

### **Leaves of Absence**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Unpaid Parental Leave of Lisa Albert, Guidance Counselor, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective for the 2011-2012 school year. (Budgeted)**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Maternity Leave of Kyle Santos, Special Educator, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 5/2/2011 to the end of the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Mikaela Shorey, World Language Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 5/23/2011 to the end of the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)**

**Mr. Wood made a motion to approve these leaves of absence, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.**

## **Resignation**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Lori Beauregard, Grade 1 Teacher, at Garvin Memorial School, effective 4/3/2011.**

**Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve this resignation, 2nd Mr. Wood and Mrs. Sanzi, approved 5-1. Mr. Pedro voted no.**

## **Retirement**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Edoarda Hilton, Teacher Assistant, at Community School, effective 6/30/2011.**

**Mr. Wood made a motion to approve this retirement, 2nd Mr. Pedro and Mrs. Sanzi, approved 6-0.**

**I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Richard Hilton, Director of Buildings & Grounds, for Cumberland Public Schools, effective 4/15/2011.**

**Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve this retirement, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 5-1. Mr. Wood voted no.**

**At this point several comments were directed toward Mr. Hilton. He will be missed, he was very appreciated, always there answering his cell phone at all hours, very dedicated hard working individual – everyone will miss him greatly and everyone wishes him a long and healthy retirement!!! Also, everyone wanted to thank Mrs. Hilton for her understanding throughout the years and wished her well also!**

## **Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public**

**No comments at this time.**

## **Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison**

**Reports)**

**Mr. Mutter noted that there should have been a grievance on this agenda, but it did not make it so he will make sure that it is on the next meetings agenda.**

**Mr. Wood wanted to commend the staff at Cumberland Hill on their test scores – especially their reading – it is above and beyond. Also, the play, The Secret Garden, on May 4 and May 5, he asked everyone to try to come out and see it – they always do a great job!**

**Mr. Pedro noted that All Band Night will be on 4/27 at MMS, all band members in the town of Cumberland get together and perform in front of about 500 people, and it usually begins around 6:30 p.m. Also, the next night, he will be extending the invitation to the students to play the National Anthem at our SC meeting.**

**Agenda Item 14: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5:**

**A. Personnel Matters and B. Negotiations/Litigation**

**Mr. Mutter asked Mr. Rotella if there were any items for Executive Session tonight and Mr. Rotella said no there were not.**

**Agenda Item #15: Adjournment**

**Mr. Pedro made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 6-0.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.**

**Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony**